



Be a clown, be a clown; all the world loves a clown....

Clown Doctors go for the Guinness (Book of Records, that is)

This was a weekend of many events in Aruba, but unquestionably, one of the most spirited was the 6k fundraising walk for Aruba's Clown Doctors. The non-profit organization, which was founded by Peter Balliere, maintains a staff of *Payasos*, or clowns, which visit children in the hospital, brightening their day and calming their fears. Recently they have added to their schedule homes for the elderly.

On Saturday, April 21, they enjoined the public to gather at Flora Market for a fundraising walk and attempt to set a record with the Guinness Book of Records for the Most (non-professional) Clowns Walking for Charity. A fantastic turnout and a basket of red rubber noses may have won them the record and a place in history. Joining the various payasos of the Clown Doctors in leading the walkers through the streets of Oranjestad was Payaso Willy and the characters of Disney Recreacion.

The owner of Flora Market, Peter Hollander, was the major sponsor of the charity event and marked the ten-year anniversary of his popular nursery and home décor store by providing a cornucopia of raffle prizes, including a grand prize of a trip to Disneyworld, in cooperation with Tango Tours. The first to cross the finish line was Faissal Barroso, pushing his four-year-old son, Nahib. Soon following them were teenage friends Jennifer and Jennilee, but the raffle winner going to Orlando is young Jenny Knyn and her mother Ilse, who were thrilled when Master of Ceremonies Ruben Garcia called their number.

Hot and thirsty walkers were greeted with fresh fruit and snacks and beverages donated by Caribbean Overseas and Romar Trading, respectively. Flora Market provided ice cream for the kiddies, and their General Manager, Arjo van Dis had a wonderful time handing out the sweet treats.

Visiting the event was the executive delegates of the Kiwanis, which was having their quarterly district meeting in Aruba over the weekend. They brought with them some residents of the Maristella Home for the Elderly, who are often visited by the Clown Doctors. All the Kiwanis delegates, including the Lieutenant Governor of Curaco, Anthony Haile, got into the spirit of the day, and happily had their noses painted red by Payaso Silly. The North Stars Steel Band provided music and entertainment, also adding to the festive ambiance of the afternoon.

After the tally by two officials, Notary Tjon Ajong and Lud Wix, an officer of the court, it was announced that 682 clowns participated, very likely a record for non-professional clowns, but yet to be confirmed. It was confirmed that the day was such a success, it will certainly become an annual event!